

consequences: 1. they show that when Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he regarded the figure as pointing to something that is still future; 2. they obviously give the inspired interpretation of Isaiah 11:4 and show that Paul considered the glorious period of universal freedom from external danger described in Isaiah 11:6-9 to be a portrayal of the situation that would follow Christ's second advent. Thus John's use of this same figure in Revelation 19 would seem to provide conclusive proof that the event described there is not the first advent of Christ but His return.

### IS THERE A CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE?

The next question to be resolved is whether Revelation 20 describes events that follow the return of Christ depicted in the last half of Revelation 19, or whether it should be assumed that a new section of the book begins with Revelation 20. This is a valid question and its answer should not be assumed without definite proof.

Such proof is not hard to find. Revelations 19:20 says that "*the beast*" and "*the false prophet*" were cast into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelations 20:10 says that after the thousand years "*the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are.*" Thus it is made clear that the events of Revelation 20 follow those of Revelation 19.

The picture of the millennial kingdom in Revelation 20 fits that derived from the Old Testament passages. Many attempts have been made to explain away its obvious meaning. These various attempts have little in common with one another. Two of them have already been examined -- the idea that Revelation 19 pictures the first advent rather than the second; and the suggestion that Revelation 20 begins a new section, rather than following in chronological order.

In addition to reemphasizing what other parts of the Bible have revealed about the millennial kingdom, Revelation 20 adds two important facts: the binding of Satan for a thousand years and the resurrection of the righteous dead at the beginning of this period. Each of these has been the object of attacks upon the whole idea of a millennial kingdom.